

KC-FEB Veterans Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes
August 31, 2017 – 1:30 PM (Thursday)
Location – National Archives and Records Administration
400 West Pershing Road
Kansas City, Missouri 64108

ITEM	<u>DISCUSSION</u>	<u>ACTION/ASSIGNMENT/POC</u> If/As Applicable																													
Opening / Introductions		Greg Giese																													
Attendees	<table border="0"> <tr> <td><u>In person</u></td><td><u>In person</u></td><td><u>Via teleconference</u></td><td><u>Via teleconference</u></td></tr> <tr> <td>1. Greg Giese</td><td>7. Dennis Johnson</td><td>1. Willy Hensel</td><td>7. Jeff Winters</td></tr> <tr> <td>2. Vanessa Thomson</td><td>8. Melissa Brown</td><td>2. Dwayne Rider</td><td>8. David DeWitt</td></tr> <tr> <td>3. John Cleveland</td><td>9. Emma Toops</td><td>3. Jim Dixon</td><td>9. James Edwards</td></tr> <tr> <td>4. Larry Hisle</td><td>10. Jim White</td><td>4. Jim Stevens</td><td>10. Lorelei Schieferdecker</td></tr> <tr> <td>5. Karen Hutchinson</td><td></td><td>5. Mike Ciliege</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>6. Mackenzie Smith</td><td></td><td>6. Levi Perkins</td><td></td></tr> </table>	<u>In person</u>	<u>In person</u>	<u>Via teleconference</u>	<u>Via teleconference</u>	1. Greg Giese	7. Dennis Johnson	1. Willy Hensel	7. Jeff Winters	2. Vanessa Thomson	8. Melissa Brown	2. Dwayne Rider	8. David DeWitt	3. John Cleveland	9. Emma Toops	3. Jim Dixon	9. James Edwards	4. Larry Hisle	10. Jim White	4. Jim Stevens	10. Lorelei Schieferdecker	5. Karen Hutchinson		5. Mike Ciliege		6. Mackenzie Smith		6. Levi Perkins		N/A	
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GUEST SPEAKERS																															
None																															
OLD BUSINESS																															
1. Minutes	Committee members were asked to verify attendance from July meeting minutes that were emailed and submit any changes to Greg. Before the next meeting, the July meeting minutes will be approved online.	Greg Giese																													
1. FEBVAC Stand Down Coordinator (Fed. Employee) - http://kcstanddown.org/	<p>The Heart of America Stand Down Foundation hosts two Stand Downs, annually, serving veterans in the Kansas City metropolitan area. The foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, is run entirely by dedicated volunteers with 100% of proceeds going toward providing support to veterans. During Stand Down veterans are provided with clothing, food, mobility escorts, barbers/beauticians, and security from more than 100 organizations.</p> <p>Dennis Johnson is our POC for Stand Down, but we need a volunteer to serve as the VA Committee Stand Down Coordinator. The Coordinator would preferably be a federal employee and can even be an existing member of our Committee. It would be more of a facilitator of contacts to get people in touch with Dennis Johnson. The Coordinator can send info to the committee and committee members can then send it on out to their agencies.</p>	<p>Contact Greg Giese or John Rogers.</p> <p>The most recent Stand Down was held on 6/2/17 in Missouri and the next will be in Kansas on 11/3/17 (according to https://www.va.gov/homeless/vents.asp).</p>																													

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<p>2. Community Outreach – Veterans Community Project</p> <p>http://veteranscommunityproject.org/</p>	<p>The KC FEBVAC may gather volunteers to build a house in the future with request from Chris and Kevin. A benefit gala for Veteran's Village – a tiny house community for homeless veterans – will be held on Nov 11, 2017.</p> <p>Suggestion to have a Veterans Affairs Committee Meeting at the Community Outreach Center for an opportunity to see the site.</p> <p>Suggestion to participate in a needs tree, similar to what the IRS does where any federal employee can "adopt" a veteran, and the donations are shipped overseas.</p>	<p>Greg will get in touch with Donna Mayfield.</p>	
<p>3. Reduction of the number of Program Coordinators.</p>	<p>Greg discussed with John Cleveland regarding the issue of Coordinators that may not be very involved. Some people on the Committee don't attend the meetings regularly, so it may be beneficial to replace them and either accept other volunteers or eliminate the position. The need to be physically present for the meetings is not a requirement.</p> <p>Proposed removals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Health Insurance ACA – Lorelei Schieferdecker 2. Kansas City Veteran Career and Resource Fair – Chip Hillesheim 3. Veterans History Project - Dennis Branson 	<p>Greg Giese</p> <p>In the future, the Committee will identify Coordinators to remove or replace.</p>	
<p>NEW BUSINESS</p>			
<p>1. FEB VA Committee Mission</p> <p>https://kansascity.feb.gov/committees/vet/</p> <p>http://projecthomelessconnectkc.com</p>	<p>The Committee would like to focus efforts and be involved in a project. Greg suggested a blood drive for the troops, but since there is no way to ensure blood collected would solely go to veterans, it may be a good idea to be involved in USDA's regularly scheduled blood drives.</p> <p>Sondra Robinson from the United Way volunteered to track any interest from the VA Committee members to be involved in the various projects her organization supports to include: Project Homeless Connect, Stand Down, Point in Time, and VA2K to be held in May. Sondra can create a separate sign-in sheet for FEB members, so our involvement can be tracked.</p>	<p>Greg Giese</p>	

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https://www.publichealth.va.gov/va2k/ http://www.hscgkc.org/index.html	Vanessa suggested the possibility of FEB VA Committee members participate in an event in lieu of a monthly meeting. Greg said he would send an email out to the Committee to vote if the members are able and willing to help attend a service project instead of a monthly meeting, for example for the Committee to help in the morning on Thursday, Nov 2 to assist with set up of Stand Down.		
PROGRAM COORDINATOR REPORTS			
a. Crisis & Homeless	Not Present.	Sondra Robinson/ Fanny Woods	
b. Committee Liaison	Not Present.	Jennifer King	
c. Community Outreach	Not Present.	Donna Mayfield	
d. Discounts & Events	An email he distributed announced the online shopping benefit for honorably discharged veterans to shop the Exchange starting Nov 11, 2017. Greg suggested Michael put together a list of discounts closer to Veteran's day.	Michael Ciliege	
e. Education Benefits	The House recently passed the new 'forever' Montgomery GI Bill which eliminates the current 15-year time limit on use of the Post-9/11 GI Bill for those who were discharged on or after Jan. 1, 2013.	Vanessa Thomson http://www.military.com/education/2017/08/04/forever-gi-bill-details.html	
f. Guest Speakers	James referenced a webinar through the National Alliance for Insurance Education and Research to be held on Oct 4 which will discuss universities that have discounts or tuition for government employees or Veterans. 12 colleges are set to attend and can chat virtually.	James White	
g. Health Insurance ACA	No Update.	Lorelei Schieferdecker	

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h. Stand Down - http://kcstanddown.org/	See Old Business item regarding Stand Down.	Dennis Johnson (Providers) (816) 510-9802 dennis@kcstanddown.org	
i. Veterans History Project	No Update.	Dennis Branson	
j. Women Veterans	<p>Mackenzie says the DoD launched an online self-guided program to help military survivors of sexual assault.</p> <p>She also met with Rebecca Bradley in July at the St. Michael's veteran's home to get more insight on the challenges women veterans have in homeless or crisis situations. Rebecca said homeless women veterans have a higher suicide rate than men. Since St. Michael's is managed through the HUD, availability is on a first-come, first-served basis. Even though family units might be open, HUD standards might now allow those families. Therefore, women sometimes couch surf and can't qualify to stay in the home. They also discussed that since sexual trauma experienced in the military is a reason why they're at the veterans' home, they may not feel safe there.</p> <p>A program called Warrior Ascent was mentioned, which was founded three years ago and are dedicated to creating a path of healing for our nation's veterans and first responders, based in Kansas City. They hold regularly scheduled "Academy of Healing Classes". A photography exhibit sharing stories of the triumphs of veterans after war will be held at 2014 Broadway, Kansas City, MO on Saturday, November 4th, 2017 from 6-9pm.</p>	<p>Mackenzie Smith</p> <p>https://www.defense.gov/News/News-Releases/News-Release-View/Article/1211427/dod-launches-online-learning-program-to-help-military-survivors-of-sexual-assau/</p> <p>https://www.liveatstmichaelsvetcenter.com/</p> <p>https://www.warriorsascent.org/</p>	
Open Discussion			
Missouri Veterans Upward Bound (VUB)	John Cleveland mentioned an education and skills program designed to serve the needs of today's veterans. The VUB Mission is to provide qualifying veterans with the skills and motivation necessary to enter and succeed in a post-secondary education program. They are having a Veteran's Summit on Nov 14 at the Penn Valley campus at the Metropolitan Community College with a kickoff at 7:30am, and are looking for people to help fill the event.	John Cleveland http://mcckc.edu/military/upward-bound/	

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Emma Toops on the Starfish Project	Emma mentioned the Starfish Project which is a 501(c)(3) designed to be a connection point for lives, resources, and acts of kindness. Their mission is to be the connector between the community, non-profits, and those in need throughout the Kansas City Metro area. They do this by connecting with non-profits, finding out what resources they are looking for, and going out into the community to help locate those items. Emma will send James White information on possibly having a Starfish rep come speak at a meeting.	https://starfishproject21.org/	
Emma Toops on KCAUSA events	Emma mentioned the Purple Connection event in August. She has helped with four events so far, and about 75 people attend. An anniversary event will take place Veterans' Day weekend. She also mentioned an upcoming "Meet Your Army" event on Sep 28, 2017 from 5:30-7:30pm. Please check the website for more information or if you are interested in attending.	http://kcausa.org/the-purple-connection-09-aug/ http://kcausa.org/category/events/	
Sprint's Annual Veteran's Day Celebration	Sprint's Annual Veteran's day Celebration is to be held on Nov 9 at the Overland Park campus. It is open to the public, and kids are welcome.		
James needs a speaker	James is in search of a Veteran's Day ceremony speaker and would like to find a Korean War veteran.		
Other Action Items			
None.			
NEXT MEETINGS:	September 21th, 2017 at 1:30 pm. National Archives and Records Administration Facility: Open to the public.		

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Upcoming:

Thu, Sep 21	KC-FEB Veteran's Affairs Committee Meeting
Sat, Sep 23	KC VAMC Career Fair from 8am-noon at the KC VAMC at 4801 E Linwood Blvd, Kansas City, MO 64128
Wed, Sep 27	KCVA Veterans Town Hall from 6-7pm at the Johnson County Central Resource Library at 9875 W 87 th St, Overland Park, KS 66212
Thu, Sep 28	KCAUSA "Meet Your Army" event from 5:30-7:30pm
Wed, Oct 4	Webinar through the National Alliance for Insurance Education and Research
Wed, Oct 4	Military Hiring Fair Career Event from 10:30am-1:30pm at the Missouri National Guard Armory at 7600 Ozark Road, Kansas City, MO 64129
Thu, Nov 2	Setup for The Heart of America Stand Down
Fri, Nov 3	The Heart of America Stand Down from 7am-2pm at Memorial Hall at 600 N 7 th Street, Kansas City, KS 66101
Sat, Nov 4	Photography exhibit sharing stories of the triumphs of veterans after war will be held at 2014 Broadway, Kansas City, MO from 6-9pm
Thu, Nov 9	Sprint's Annual Veteran's day Celebration to be held at the Overland Park campus
Sat, Nov 11	A benefit gala for Veteran's Village – a tiny house community for homeless veterans
Tue, Nov 14	VUB Veteran's Summit at the Penn Valley campus at the Metropolitan Community College with a kickoff at 7:30am
January	Point in Time event
Thu, Mar 22	KC Veteran's Job Fair at Arrowhead Stadium from 11am-3pm
May	VA2K event